



## THIS WEEK IN IRAQ

The Official Newsletter of the Multi-National Force - Iraq

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# No Permanent U.S. Bases

**WASHINGTON** — The United States is not seeking permanent military bases in Iraq as it negotiates legal and military agreements with the Iraqi government, U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker said June 5.

Speaking at the State Department, Crocker called published reports that the United States is trying to set up permanent bases “flatly untrue.”

“There clearly is going to be a need” for a U.S. and coalition military presence in Iraq beyond the end of the year, Crocker said. But the status of forces agreement, when adopted, “is not going to be forever, particularly as it related to the status and authority of coalition forces in Iraq,” he said.

“So I’m very comfortable saying to you – to the Iraqis, to anyone who asks – that no, indeed, we are not seeking permanent bases, either explicitly or implicitly, by just intending to stay there indefinitely,” he said.

Both the U.S. and Iraqi governments want a strategic framework agreement as

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U.S. Army Soldiers conduct a cordon and search to deny sanctuary to the enemy. U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker said June 5 the United States is not seeking permanent military bases in Iraq. U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Bendet.

## This Week in News ...

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**Lithuanians Choose to Stay the Course**



## Economy Booms again in Baghdad

**BAGHDAD** — When Army Capt. Shawn Carbone first took a good look at the economy in Iraq’s southern Baghdad province, he found it similar to his studies of America during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

“Most of the historically strong businesses were gone,” said Carbone, economics team leader for the Baghdad 7 Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (EPRT). “The owners had left and packed up. The businesses were shut down, and there was mass unemployment across the board.”

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